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512th Airlift Wing, Dover Air Force Base, Del.

512th Yellow Ribbon program gears up for fall events

Tech. Sgt. Scott P. Farley
512th AW Public Affairs

Air Force reservists and their families have learned from years of experience that the rigors of a military deployment extend far beyond an Airman serving in theater.

From the time an Airman learns about an upcoming deployment to months after returning home, Airmen and their families deal with a myriad of issues. Reservists face unique issues not typically encountered by active duty deployers.

The Yellow Ribbon Reintegration Program has bridged the gap between active duty oriented deployment benefits and giving reservists and their families the information and assistance they need to take advantage of resources available to them.

The Yellow Ribbon Program

brings together resources like finance, chaplains, legal, Military One Source, the USO, Military Family Life Consultants, and counselors and speakers to give reservists and guardsmen one-stop shopping for the deployment needs of Airmen and Soldiers. Yellow Ribbon also offers age appropriate care and counseling for children from infants to teens.

Over the past year, the Yellow Ribbon program has eliminated its local events, opting to focus its resources on larger regional events. The quarterly cost-saving events are held once a month in resorts in each of the four Yellow Ribbon regions.

"I don't think people realize how useful it is, especially in

the pre-deployment phase, to go to one of the Yellow Ribbon events," said Tech. Sgt. Mariah Krass, 512th Airlift Wing Yellow Ribbon coordinator. "If they go during the pre-deployment phase they can have a lot on their mind that they can deal with and also remember it for when they get back."

Yellow Ribbon events are no-cost to deploying Airmen and their families and have more breakout sessions than a family can go to in just one trip. Many of the event breakouts are specific to phases of the deployment and vary between presenters.

She added that going to a pre-deployment event is a huge benefit in preparing families for

the deployment cycle and just the beginning of the Yellow Ribbon program.

"If the whole family goes to a pre-deployment event then the family is more likely to attend while the person is deployed and stay connected with the resources that are out there," said Krass. "Then they will be looking forward to when the member comes home and going to events when they are home."

Deployers and their families are eligible for four events over the course of a deployment, which coincide with the life cycle of deployment.

The Yellow Ribbon Reintegration Program will soon announce its fall events. For more information about the 512th Yellow Ribbon program contact Tech. Sgt. Krass at 677-3566.

For full article, go to <http://www.512aw.afrc.af.mil/news/story.asp?id=123273652>



Team Dover honors POW/MIAs with vigil run



U.S. Air Force photo by Staff Sgt. Danella Shea

Eight members from the 512th and 436th Maintenance Squadrons run together at 4:45 a.m. Sept. 23, helping keep a POW/MIA flag in motion during a 24-hour vigil run. More than 200 Airmen from the 512th and 436th Airlift Wings volunteered their time to participate in the run held in observance of National Prisoner of War/ Missing in Action Day.



It's Tee Time!

Team Dover to host Bluesuiters'

The Team Dover Bluesuiters' Golf Tournament is scheduled for Oct. 5 at the Eagle Creek Golf Course at Dover Air Force Base, Del. The purpose of the tournament is to promote the relationship between the Dover civilian community and the base community. Check-in is scheduled at 8 a.m., with a shotgun start scheduled at 9 a.m.

The cost is \$45 for Eagle Creek members and \$60 for non-members. Lunch is included in the cost of participation.

For more information or to RSVP, contact Jennifer Valle at 302-677-3376 by Sept. 30.